



JPW
AF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

MATSUTORI et al.

Serial No. 10/725,288

Filed: December 2, 2003

For: THIN PLATE SUPPORTING
CONTAINER

) Confirmation No. 2549
)
) Examiner: John G. Pickett
)
) Art Unit: 3728
)
)
)
)

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37CFR1.116

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Reconsideration of the final rejection of March 21, 2007 in view of the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

The indication of the patentability of claim 25 over the prior art and the renumbering of the last claim previously presented, as claim 27, are acknowledged with appreciation.

Applicants recognize that, as correctly characterized by the Examiner, "Betsuyaku discloses a thin plate supporting container comprising: a container body 1; and oriented in three different directions", quoting from the top of page 3 of the office action. However, the Examiner reads applicants' "V-shaped groove plate pieces" and "supporting stands" on, respectively, the "guide member 9" and "positioning ribs 5" of Betsuyaku which have substantially different functions.

In Betsuyaku, the "positioning means 4", as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, serves to position the container body and includes the positioning ribs 5, the end faces 7 of the positioning ribs 5 and reinforcing rib 6, which elements cooperatively form "a concave portion 8. That concave portion 8 receives and mates with a positioning pin 14 as shown in Fig. 5.

On the other hand, the "guide members 9" of Betsuyaku serve merely to guide the "positioning means 4" to the positioning pin, as taught by Betsuyaku at column 10,